

DRAFT

Inspection of Materials Relating to the
Autopsy of President John F. Kennedy
The National Archives
October 31, 1966

At approximately 2:05 p.m., October 31, 1966, in Room 6W-3 of the National Archives Building, Mr. Burke Marshall, the representative of the executors of the estate of President John F. Kennedy, delivered to the custody of the Government of the United States certain materials pertaining to the autopsy of the late President. This action was pursuant to a letter from Mr. Marshall to Honorable Lawson B. Knott, Jr., Administrator of General Services, dated October 29, 1966, which constituted a deed of gift of these and other materials from the estate of John F. Kennedy to the Government of the United States.

The materials were in a footlocker that had previously been delivered to the National Archives by representatives of Senator Robert F. Kennedy for purposes of secure storage. At the time of its delivery the footlocker was locked, its key was retained by representatives of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and its contents were not divulged to officials of the National Archives and Records Service.

The footlocker was opened in the presence of Burke Marshall; Miss Angela Novello, secretary to Senator Robert F. Kennedy; Frank M. Wozencraft, Assistant Attorney General; Harold F. Reis, Executive Assistant to the Attorney General; Robert H. Bahmer, Archivist of the United States; James B. Rhoads, Deputy Archivist of the United States; Herman Kahn, Assistant Archivist for Presidential Libraries; and William H. Brewster, Assistant

to the General Counsel, General Services Administration. Immediately after the opening of the footlocker Miss Novello and Messrs. Marshall and Wozencraft departed and those remaining inspected its contents.

Included in the material in the footlocker was a carbon copy of a letter from Senator Robert F. Kennedy to Vice Admiral George G. Burkley dated April 22, 1965, authorizing the release to the Senator's custody^{of} all the material relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy of which Admiral Burkley had personal knowledge and delivery of the same to Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln in the National Archives Building (a copy of this letter is attached hereto as Exhibit A). The footlocker also contained the original of a letter from Admiral Burkley to Mrs. Lincoln, dated April 26, 1965, transmitting materials relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy. These materials were itemized in a list attached to the letter. (This letter and its attachment are appended hereto as Exhibit B.)

Inspection of the footlocker disclosed that it contained items 1 through 8, inclusive, referred to in the attachment to ^{Admiral} Burkley's letter of April 26, 1965. It did not contain any of the material referred to in item 9 of that attachment. However, the footlocker did contain three large manila envelopes of material which appeared to be copies of military service records of the late President and which had no apparent relationship to the autopsy.

Messrs. Bahmer, Reis, Rhoads, Kahn and Brewster examined the material enumerated in items 2 through 8, inclusive, of the attachment to Admiral Burkley's letter and concluded as a result of this examination that the

material referred to under those items was present. That material was removed from the footlocker and placed in a security cabinet previously approved by Mr. Marshall.

(Bahmer)

(Reis)

(Rhoads)

(Kahn)

(Brewster)

April 22, 1965

Dear Dr. Burkley:

This will authorize you to release to my custody all of the material of President Kennedy, of which you have personal knowledge, and now being held by the Secret Service.

I would appreciate it if you would accompany this material personally and turn it over for safekeeping to Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln at the National Archives. I am sending a copy of this letter to Mrs. Lincoln with instructions that this material is not to be released to anyone without my written permission and approval.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Kennedy

Vice Adm. George G. Burkley
Physician to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

cc/Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

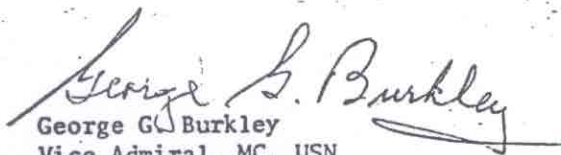
April 26, 1965

Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln
National Archives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Lincoln:

In accordance with authorization dated April 22, 1965 from Senator Robert F. Kennedy, the items on the attached list relating to the autopsy of the late President John F. Kennedy are herewith transferred to the Archives for your custody, and in accordance with the instructions contained in Senator Kennedy's letter.

Yours sincerely,


George G. Burkley
Vice Admiral, MC, USN
Physician to the President

Witnesses: